

to fulfillment through the trading, then we have the moral sanction for the market. And it follows that any alliance with the impulse to an infraction of his right to unnatural and therefore immoral. Any interference with trade which, if carried to its ultimate conclusion, must break up society and drive us back to cave-man.

the law imposes restrictions it is on ethical grounds only such restrictions safeguard the life; for the right to life precludes other rights. For instance, a road between your house and your home is flooded and it is blocked so that you cannot get to the restraint is highly moral. In such cases is there moral justification for interference with trade. Under the war and the trade conditions resulting from it come the category of the flood and protective road-blocking is a definite question.

At any rate, a number of people are not conscious of the morality of these restraints, and therefore have not inhibited their trading impulse. Hence the black market. It is illegal. Is it immoral?

However, all such speculation about the morality of the black market can be ended by simply substituting God for God.

## Contract

ring on the ultimate price of—or trips.

"public policy" pokes its nose into human relations, the price of goods and services is fixed by the bidders put upon them. The policy is for price to approximate cost of production, for, if the price falls below that point production will stop, while if it rises above production will increase. When buying and selling is done on the offer basis, without coercion, or a rake-off taken by a non-participating kibitzer, we have the regime known as the regime of contract.

On the other hand, when this non-participating kibitzer has the power to accept or limit offers, and more exact a share of the proceeds in return to do business, the atmosphere approximates the regime of status. Complete status when all human relations are controlled by an all-powerful kibitzer, required omniscience obviates

The assumption underlying the proposed rates is that the State will, because of its interest in the public

or the economic relations between men it introduces, to the extent of its control, the demoralizing regime of status.

## QUADRUPLE MANIFEST DESTINY

EVERY so often, since the world began, a particular group would take it into their heads that their habits of mind were superior to those of neighboring peoples; from which point of view it seemed incumbent upon them to force enlightenment upon these foreigners. The biblical Jews may not have started it, but they went further than any other people by proclaiming themselves the elect of God. About the sixth century before the modern era the Greeks began designating as "barbarian" those bereft of hellenic culture. Romans did a pretty good job of impressing non-Romans with the misfortune of their disability. Coming down to the present day, we have the doctrine of the herrenvolk.

When we analyze the results of this overweening gang-conceit, we are impelled to the conclusion that it has an economic motivation—for no people ever went out to civilize another people without coming up with some loot for their pains. Digging deeper into such light-spreading ventures we find that the real profiteers were always a few leaders—emerging usually with the privilege of collecting rent from the forcibly civilized, or even from their own soldiers who happened to settle down among the conquered.

Americans, the most heterogeneous national group the world has known, have not been free from this profitable arrogance. In 1848, under the impudent banner of Manifest Destiny, the motley crew went forth to grab chunks of territory which the "inferior" Mexicans were not "properly" exploiting. Late in the century the flag was dusted off again, this time to head a crusade to free "our little brown brothers" from the yoke of Spain; so that they could enjoy the pleasure of paying rent to American landowners. As for the English, they have been effectively exporting their peculiar brand of superiority, at a handsome profit, ever since their eighteenth century buccaneers replaced the skull-and-bones with the Union Jack.

The march of civilization, no less, requires a novel redesigning of the threadbare flag. Warfare being what it is, there is no nation powerful enough to lay an outright claim to the emblem. Hence, when Manifest

Destiny is unfurled at the treaty of peace, its white background, indicating purity of purpose, will be decorated with a replica of Uncle Sam in one corner, one of John Bull in another, while the outside corners will show an upright bear and a menacing dragon. Four "peace loving" nations will bear the burden of enlightenment to the rest of mankind—by way of spheres of influence, no doubt.

All will go well under the new arrangement until these four figures converge toward the middle of the flag, when we may expect a royal free-for-all. When will this happen? Who will come out on top? Stop worrying, little man; your job is to work and pay and die—for Manifest Destiny.

## LATIFONDISTA

We quote from "Time": "Britain was reported to be toying with Sicilian separatism, and with the idea of restoring the long-defunct kingdom of Sicily... Semi-feudal Latifondisti, powerful landowners long protected by Fascism, saw in independence a chance to prolong their rule." If it turns out that Sicily becomes a "snug little island kingdom nestled against the protecting ribs of the British lion" (with powerful paws dug into Suez and Gibraltar) the event will be in line with an historical fact: landowners have always been keen for the strong State.

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